



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 27.50 Thursday, December 16, 2021 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**

School Board ranks Supt. Kudlak as 'Highly Effective,' raises his pay

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a closed-door session near the end of Monday's regular meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board reconvened to give the school superintendent the top grade in his annual evaluation.

The board voted unanimously to rate School Supt. Pete Kudlak as "Highly Effective" for the calendar year of January-December 2021. That rating is at the top of the chart on the multi-page Michigan Association of School Boards' evaluation form.

The board also gave him the top rating in its 2019 and 2020 evaluations.

In addition, the board extended Supt. Kudlak's contract for another year, to conclude June 30, 2025, and set his 2022-23 salary to begin in July at \$159,000. This is up from his present 2021-22 salary of \$154,000 which was the same as his 2020-21 salary.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Honored members of the high school football team that won top honors in the state, along with members of the volleyball team. Haile Brown from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's office presented a framed proclamation honoring the football champs that she said would be put into the Congressional Record. State Rep. Ranjeev Puri presented a resolution honoring the success of the district's fall sports program, signed by him, the governor, and the lieutenant governor. He said he is working on a plan to bring the football team to Lansing to be honored;

- Approved an agreement between owner and vendor for furniture, furnishings, and equipment with NBS Commercial Interiors for an amount not to exceed \$430,000 pending final review of terms by district

(continued on page 3)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

The Fulton family – Mom Nicole with the scissors, dad Devon, and children Lucas, Addison, and little Cherish (in the carrier in back) – helped cut the ribbon early Monday evening at the Van Buren Public School District's new Early Childhood Development Center that opens to classes in January. Taking part in the ceremony were State Rep. Ranjeev Puri, at left, School Supt. Pete Kudlak in back, members of the school board and principal of the new school holding the ribbon at right, Becky Ross.



School Supt. Pete Kudlak led a tour of the new Early Childhood Development Center for half of those attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony. He showed off a classroom. At left is school principal Becky Ross and her husband, Benjamin Ross.

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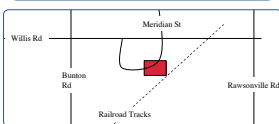
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Belleville High School football team came to Monday's meeting to be recognized by the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education. Coach Jermain Crowell spoke about the spirit of the team made all the difference and helped bring their state championship.

School Board

(continued from page 1)

legal counsel for Owen Intermediate School. The exact cost should be ready after the holidays;

- Approved the Schools of Choice program for the second semester of the 2021-22 school year for classes K-12;

- Approved a resolution that states the district will continue to collect 100% summer taxes. The district's legal consultant, Thrun, advises this resolution should be adopted annually. Director of Finance Sara Cortese said if the district does not levy summer taxes, it does not have enough fund balance to operate without revenue until the first state aid payment of the school year in October;

- Set the 2022 organizational board meeting for Monday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. in person in the Belleville High School Commons;

- Approved hiring Marissa Moore as a

teacher at Savage Elementary School as of Nov. 29;

- Approved the terminations of Elizabeth Varner as a food service employee at McBride Middle School as of Dec. 7; Emily MacBlain as a bus aide as of Dec. 7; and NyBionna Lewis as a bus aide as of Dec. 8. All served less than one year;

- Approved the resignation of Stephanie Holmes from food service at Owen Intermediate School as of Dec. 13 after four years of service; the resignation of Lilla Lamas a paraprofessional at Edgemont Elementary as of Dec. 17 after less than one year of service; and the resignation of Crisandra Welch as a bus aide as of Nov. 3 after less than one year of service;

- Approved the employment of Daviena Kindell as a bus aide as of Dec. 1; Vandella Hubbard as a paraprofessional at Rawsonville Elementary as of Dec. 3; Lindsey Tregenza as a BHS social worker as of Dec. 13; Brenda Houghtaling as a bus aide as of Dec. 15; and LaToyra Weston as

Student Services Administrative Assistant at the Administration Building as of Jan. 3;

- Heard parent Joe Flange protest the mask mandate for school district students, giving his reasons and then saying it was child abuse to require the masks on children. He asked twice, "If masks work, why are masks not working?" He referred to the rise in positive tests despite masks. [On Tuesday morning, Flange contacted the *Independent* with this message: Mr. Kudlak contacted me this morning and thanked me for addressing the board. He said the board has no intention of lifting the mask mandate until the Wayne County Health Dept suggests to lift it. I appreciate his reaching out to me. It was unexpected and is deserving of respect.];

- Heard parent Angela Mears announce that McBride Middle School will get 10% of the sales at Hungry Howie's on Belleville Road on Monday, Dec. 20, if there are 50 orders where the customer mentions McBride. The orders also can be online, if they mention McBride in the area provided,

or by phone, if McBride is mentioned. She said they narrowly missed getting 50 orders in the program last month;

- Heard student board member Morgan Stuckey report the student council is finishing its toy drive for children and getting ready to participate in Holiday Spirit Week;

- Heard reports that the McBride Robotics team did well in weekend competition and has been invited to participate in state competition. Also, the JROTC program is advancing in national academic competition;

- Heard Supt. Kudlak announce that quarterback Bryce Underwood, a BHS freshman, was named AP Player of the Year for Divisions 1 and 2 for leading his team to its state football championship; and

- Heard Director of Instruction Jeff Moore announce they are starting a new Esports program that includes marketing and design.

Belleville City Council approves refinancing of DDA Streetscape bonds

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Refinancing the Belleville Downtown Development Authority Streetscape bonds will save about \$200,000 in bond payments, so the Belleville City Council at its Dec. 6 in-person meeting unanimously approved the refinancing.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said since the \$4 million in bonds were issued with the full faith and credit of the city, the city council must handle the refinancing.

Tim McLean, deputy city manager and DDA director, said the DDA has been paying on the 2010 bonds since 2011 and currently 50% of the DDA expenses are for bond repayment.

The city's accountant, Kelly Howey of Plante Moran and Kari Blanchett of PFM Financial Advisors determined by

refinancing the existing debt of \$363,960 at a lower interest rate it would save the DDA \$203,757.71. This would offer a savings each year from the original payment until paid off without having to extend the life of the debt.

The current rate is 4.34% and the estimated new rate would be 1.26%, with total estimated savings of over \$200,000 over the life of the bond. The last bond payment is May 1, 2029.

In other business at the Dec. 6 meeting, the council:

- Held a moment of silence for the Oxford community in the wake of the school shooting on Nov. 30;

- Witnessed 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley swear in the newly elected council members, Steve Jones and Amy Henry. After they were seated

at the council table, the council elected Councilman Ken Voigt as mayor pro tem;

- Heard Mayor Conley say a proclamation has been prepared for council members to sign honoring the Belleville High School football championship. It will be presented when the team can attend the meeting in person;

- Heard Police Chief/City Manager Dave Robinson announce that city hall will be closed between Christmas and New Year with employees taking paid time off or vacation days on the Tuesday and Wednesday. Tax payments can be dropped in the drop box in the lobby and will get a payment date of 2021 when they are processed in 2022 when offices reopen;

- Voted to move the public hearing on a stormwater management ordinance set for Dec. 20 to an unspecified date in the future.

Chief Robinson said it is unwise to act on the ordinance since the state legislature had not completed details on the law;

- Approved \$212,597.74 and the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Abbey Door, \$1,600 for emergency repair to the fire department garage door opener and replacement of remotes; to B&R Janitorial, \$1,141.28 in cleaning supplies for the DPW; to Dawson Tire & Wheel, \$1,801 for tires for the backhoe for the DPW; to Election Source, \$933 for testing of tabulators/ICX and creation of test decks for the clerk's office; to Hennessey Engineers, \$660 for inspection and testing of the Early Childhood Center at Van Buren Public Schools for the DPW; to Miss Dig, \$2,026.73 for membership fees for the DPW; and to Wolverine,

(continued on page 10)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

Team took vision of championship to this community

At Monday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education the coach of the BHS championship football team and his players explained how they took the vision of a championship to the Belleville community.

Coach Jermain Crowell said they worked on their personal skills and while they all wanted to win, they made sure their attitudes were in the right place.

He said they asked, "Can we make the community proud?" and worked to do so. One player told the board they concentrated on making the people on the right and left sides of them proud.

Crowell said while he lives in Detroit, he loves the community of Belleville and the spirit of "Bellevillians."

Athletic Director Joseph Brodie said he gathered up the grade point averages of all the students in the high school athletic program and found they had a combined 3.2 GPA. That made him and the board very pleased.

It was mentioned that these football players are probably not going to spend their adult years earning a lot of money playing football, so their education must be emphasized so they can have a good life.

The school board agreed that while athletic triumphs are nice, the important thing is academics and a work-together attitude to make everybody proud. The community is very proud of these boys.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

The winds that blew all day Saturday, with some 60 mph gusts, ended up putting out the power for a large swath of the tri-community. On Sunday a Van Buren Township reader reported his electrical power went out on Saturday morning and DTE estimated it would take until Friday to get it back. He was very upset.

Because of the devastating and deadly tornadoes and storms to the south of Michigan, those states couldn't send electrical teams to help us as they do when things are all right at home.

Another reader in VBT said a trampoline blew across the street in her subdivision. Empty trash cans were blowing too and had to be chased down and stored. A couple of people, with driveways facing east, raked their leaves into their driveways and watch them blow into the next county.

But, it's Christmastime and crowds of children came out to the library in the midst of the windstorm Saturday to get their free pictures taken with Santa. The Belleville Central Business Community is doing it again this Saturday, Dec. 18, at the library, starting with special needs children and adults at 11:30 a.m. and then continuing with everyone else from noon to 4 p.m.

We received a comment on my speculation in this column in last week's *Independent* on whether the credit union on Main Street will close, since the new Genysis branch in VBT is so close. That would be after they merge.

Margaret Waggoner wrote: "According to the letter I received there are no plans to close our branch here in town. We will see in the future if this remains the case when

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



and if the merger goes through."

She also added some kind words: "Thank you for all the hard work put in by everyone at the *Independent*. Our little paper is the best!"

Thank you.

Last week while out delivering papers, we saw some signs along Willis Road in Augusta Township in opposition to the new Dollar General store being considered for the area just east of the tracks. I looked up the online Augusta Planning Commission minutes for Nov. 17 when the final site plan for Dollar General was up for review. There were concerns with landscaping maintenance, the fence and driveway. The applicant was not there, so the commission postponed any action. Seven people were present to voice concerns and opposition to the Dollar General project. The next planning commission meeting was scheduled for Dec. 15.

Belleville City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson told the city planning commission last week that the marijuana business that plans to open at 510 Savage Rd. is restructuring its organization and it submitted a complete package just to change its name to "Hometown Provisions." He said the business holds 18 of the 22 city licenses available and the others are defunct without the other licenses they have. It plans retail distribution and consumption

first. The business has to renew its 18 licenses and pay renewal fees on the 18 by the beginning of February. That's \$5,000 per license, a total of \$90,000.

"Hometown Provisions" is realigning the financial part of its organization with the new name and the articles of incorporation that are now more transparent. And it currently is working with its architectural drawings.

There's a problem with the 30 feet of property it claims to own beyond its parcel border, which the city says is 10 feet. The city owns the property to the east so the city wants it to get a survey before allowing it to put in the fence/wall and plantings for screening.

For the state to issue the license the build-out must be done. For the business to get the build-out done it has to get permits from the city after solving the problem of the side lot.

At the city planning commission meeting on Dec. 9, DPW Director Rick Rutherford confirmed that Puppy Palace applied to the city to open a business at 177 Main St.



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Letters

Help us earn funds for McBride: Eat pizza

To the editor:

Hungry Howie's Pizza Day for McBride Middle School is this upcoming Monday, Dec. 20. Please consider ordering lunch and/or dinner from Hungry Howie's on Belleville Road and be sure to MENTION McBride Middle School. If we hit our quota for mentions, we will earn 10% of the entire days sales back to McBride!

McBride had failed to hit its quota for the prior three months and is at risk of losing this fundraising opportunity.

Because of COVID-19, there are no concession sales at sporting events, so Hungry Howie's is the ONLY current fundraiser.

Funds raised are used for staff appreciation luncheons during conferences, teacher appreciation week, and the eighth-grade party.

Angie Mears
Van Buren Township

Mandatory masks in school not working

To the editor:

Mandatory masks in schools. If masks work, why are masks not working?

We have been told our children MUST wear a "FACE DIAPER" to prevent the spread. Yet, every day around 4 p.m. I receive a call and email from BHS to inform me that another case of Covid has been identified.

Honestly, I don't even answer the calls anymore. I'm tired of the scare tactic.

So, I'll ask again. If masks work, why are masks not working?

Joe Flange
Van Buren Township

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, Dec. 20 – Van Buren Township work/study session at 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 21 – Van Buren Township regular meeting at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 11 – Van Buren Township Local Development Finance Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 13 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 18 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting
- Tuesday, Jan. 25 -- Sumpter Township meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 26 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Car crashes through wall of Sam's restaurant north dining area

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At about 10 a.m. Sunday, an elderly gentleman was parking his car in the handicap parking area next to the north dining room windows at Sam's restaurant on Main Street in the City of Belleville.

He later explained that he thought he hit the brake but hit the gas instead and slammed into the wall and windows and into the restaurant, which had customers eating their breakfasts.

Waitperson Karen Daugherty said there were no injuries. The Belleville Police and EMS checked the driver out, she said. Several pictures were taken of the destruction, both with and without the car. Joe Watkins took a picture of the car in the building and James Mattson took a picture of the windshield and other parts left inside the restaurant after the car was pulled free by a tow truck.

Both pictures were posted to Facebook where people from throughout the country called their relatives in Belleville to comment on the destruction.

The smashed side of the building has been boarded up and that dining room closed. Daugherty said they expect it to take a couple of months before that dining room is open again.

The dining area along Main Street is still serving customers.

Daugherty said she didn't know if the driver was a regular at the restaurant because he didn't get out of his car and come into the restaurant after the crash.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Saturday, Dec. 18** – Free pictures with Santa, at the Belleville Area District Library, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 28** – "Recipe for Murder!" is the Murder Mysteries Will Travel dinner event being put on in conjunction with the Belleville Area Kiwanis Club to earn funds for Trinity Episcopal Church's Friday Fill Up, providing food to school children in the community. It is at 6 p.m. at the Eagle Hall at 9961 Beck Rd. Tickets are \$25 each for dinner and show. Reservations are limited to 100 guests. Call Karen Skszek-Mida for information on tickets, (734) 635-1208.
- **Friday, March 11** – Belleville Area District Library will honor donors with a special celebration at the library at 6:30 p.m. This is by invitation only.
- **Saturday, April 9** – Belleville Area District Library will hold the grand opening of its new building from 1 to 3 p.m. with everyone invited to join in.

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Kiwanis Club to present murder-mystery dinner as Dec. 28 fund raiser

Murder Mysteries Will Travel and the Belleville Area Kiwanis Club invite the public to a murder-mystery dinner event – “Recipe for Murder”.

The dinner show will be at 6 p.m., Dec. 28, at the Eagles’ Hall, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township. Tickets are \$25 per person for the homemade dinner and show. Reservations will be limited to 100 guests and vaccinations are required.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit “Friday Fill Up”, a program sponsored by Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville. This program fills up backpacks with food and distributes them to the Van Buren School District to needy children identified by school counselors and social workers to ensure no child in the community goes hungry.

Patricia (Tricia) Evanski Jarrell, owner and actress in this production company, is a 1979 graduate of Belleville High School. The Evanski family lived in the area for years. Trisha and her family now live in Virginia and she and her husband own and operate their company Murder Mysteries Will Travel.

Tricia wanted her friends and family to enjoy one of her shows, so she and her family are traveling back to Belleville to present Recipe for Murder on one night only. She will donate all proceeds back to the community.

Those interested in attending the Murder Mystery Will Travel event are advised tickets will not be sold at the door and are available in advance only. Ticket information is available in an advertisement in today’s paper.

Those with questions may call Karen Mida at (734) 635-1208.

COVID-19 deaths in 48111 remain at 79, positive tests at 5,503

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code remained at 79 as of Monday, Dec. 13, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department. It has been at 79 since Nov. 4.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 5,503 on Monday, Dec. 13, up from 5,284 on Monday, Dec. 6.

On Monday, Dec. 13, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 3,726 positive cases, 43 deaths; City of Belleville, 641 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,136 positive cases, 15 deaths.

The Van Buren Public School District reports as of Monday, Dec. 13, there was a total of 252 positive cases in the district since the beginning of school on Aug. 30. There were 30 new positives last week, which includes Dec. 6-10 plus Monday, Dec. 13.

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Obituaries



Nick S. Godsey

NICK S. GODSEY
 (December 6, 1936 – December 4, 2021)
 Nick S. Godsey, age 84, longtime Sumpter Township resident, passed away late evening on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at his home, surrounded by family. He was born December 6, 1936, in Fisty, Kentucky, son of John and Mary (Francis) Godsey. He retired from the General Motors Willow Run plant in 1993 after many years of loyal service. He was a member of the U.A.W. Local 1776. Nick enjoyed sports, especially rooting for the Detroit Tigers and Red Wings. He had a strong faith in God and was a kind, thoughtful, caring man who never missed an opportunity to tell you he loved you. Most of all, he loved time spent with his family; his wife, kids, and grandkids were his whole world. He will be deeply missed.
 Nick is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Helen (Jones) Godsey; two sons, Nick (Donna) Godsey, Jr. of Winchester, Kentucky and Rick (Debra) Godsey of Ypsilanti, MI; daughter Kim (Dave) Elrod of Belleville, MI; 8 grandchildren, Matthew (Megan) Watson of Redmond, Washington, Jacob (Katie) Watson of Memphis, Tennessee, Kevin (Christine) Godsey of Belleville, MI, Tiffany (Daniel) Beard of Plymouth, MI, Lindsay Godsey of Grosse Pointe, MI, Jason (Tiffany) Reed of Howell, MI, Joshua (Brandy) Reed of Adrian, MI, and Jake (Katie) Reed of Garden City, MI; 14 great-grandchildren; also six siblings, Levita Godsey of Indiana, Lona Mallory of Belleville, MI, Sadie Carter and Thelma Lee, both of Fisty, Kentucky, Robert Lee, and Amanda Freshour, both of Belleville, MI; also numerous nieces and nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents John & Mary Godsey.
 Visitation was December 9 and 10 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111, (734) 697-4500. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.
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Robert Dean "Rob" Jesko

ROBERT DEAN 'ROB' JESKO
 (August 13, 1959 – December 4, 2021)
 Robert Dean "Rob" Jesko of Romulus Michigan passed away on December 4, 2021, at the age of 62 at St Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, Michigan.
 Rob was born August 13, 1959 in Uniontown, PA, son of Robert and Carolyn (Saville) Jesko. While he never actually lived in the state of Pennsylvania, he decided that their sports teams were more worthy of his devotion than those in Detroit.
 His presence was loud, and he wanted everyone to know he was there – in a good way. It was a running joke that you didn't see Rob, you heard Rob. Everyone was a friend and Rob knew someone everywhere he went (literally, everywhere).
 Rob worked for Meijer in Belleville for the past 26 years and he was a staple! He loved working there (at times) because he had the "gift of gab." The customers, employees, and managers loved him. (That parking lot will never be the same without Rob there to keep it as clean as he did!)
 Rob had multiple affections: coffee, scratch-off lottery tickets, and the casino. Yet, his main love was his family. His girls, his step-kids, and his grandchildren were his favorite. They brought him endless joy and love. They were his whole world.
 When Rob walked into Heaven, he was greeted by his dad (most likely holding 2 cups of coffee, one for himself and one for Rob), his late wife Laura, and his young son Jacob. He is at peace.
 Rob is survived by his mother Carolyn (Saville) Jesko of Romulus; wife Mary (Lainesse-Kline) Jesko of Romulus; daughters, Meghan (Tony) Jones of Garden City and Sarah (Ryan) Kirk of Sarasota, Florida; stepchildren Kerry Kline of Romulus, Shane (Carla) Kline of Canton, and Jody of Ypsilanti; grandchildren Jessalyn, Cameron, and Arianna Jones, Olivia, Noah-Dean, and Harper Kirk, Lucas Kline, Dominic White, Jackson Kline.
 He is also survived by his siblings, Cindy and Paul Jesko of Romulus, Patty (Michael) Staetter of Romulus, and Cam "Joe" (Maggie) Jesko of New Boston. Preceded in death by his father Robert "Dickie" Jesko, wife Laura (Coman) Jesko and son Jacob.
 Funeral services arranged by Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

Alexander Karl inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA -- Alexander Karl of Belleville was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society.
 Karl was initiated at Eastern Michigan University. Karl is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year.

Obituaries



Andrea (Andi)
Sherwood

ANDREA SHERWOOD

(September 13, 1975 – November 28, 2021)

Andrea (Andi) Sherwood, age 46, of Ypsilanti Township, passed away on November 28, 2021. She was born in Chatham, Ontario to James and Nancy (Leaver) Sherwood on September 13, 1975. Andrea was a graduate of Cadillac High School, class of 1993. She earned her master's degree from the University of Phoenix. Andrea was currently working for Ford Motor Company in Flat Rock, Michigan. Andrea was a very creative person, especially with painting. Andrea loved Halloween; it was her favorite holiday. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother, and friend. She also loved spending time with family and friends. Andrea was also a huge supporter of the Chiari Foundation.

Andrea is survived by her mother Nancy Sherwood of Findlay, Ohio; her children Alyssa (David Boyer) Rodriguez of Ypsilanti, MI, Andrew (Emma Labo) Sherwood-Landskroener of Belleville, MI, Alexander Landskroener of Belleville, MI, Brittany (Marissa Brooky) Landskroener of Cartersville, GA, and Richard Landskroener Jr. of Whittaker, MI; two grandchildren Roman and Tianna Boyer; her sister Michelle (Rick II) Gebhard of Detroit, MI; former husband Richard (Laura) Landskroener of Belleville, MI; nieces and nephews Marley, Kaelyn, Connor, and Ryan Jauw; also her two cats Simba and Jackson. Andrea was preceded in death by her father James Allen Sherwood.

Visitation was December 6, 2021, with a 6 p.m. Funeral Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. Memorial contributions can be made to The Chiari Foundation. <https://www.conquerchiari.org/donate> and/or The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention <https://afsp.org/>

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Karon Denise Wise

KARON DENISE WISE

(January 3, 1954 – December 7, 2021)

Karon Denise Wise, age 67, of Palmyra, MI, formerly of Sumpter Township, MI, passed away Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at her home, after a long battle with cancer. She was born January 3, 1954, in Toledo, Ohio, daughter of Wanda Image Whitman. She liked to travel, especially to St. Ignace, going to the casino and being outdoors. She loved gardening in her yard with her husband, hand feeding her hummingbirds, and was known as the gardening supervisor. She also enjoyed Facebook and being a part of the different Chihuahua groups. She had four chihuahuas: Scrappy, Boo-Boo, Gracie, and Ty-Ty.

Karon is survived by her husband of over 30 years, Rick A. Wise; three children: John Helton of Sumpter Township, MI, Debra Lynn Parmelee of Detroit, MI, and Tazen Lee Whitman of Palmyra, MI; 9 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; a sister Debbie Brannon of Belleville, MI; three brothers: Gary Bowen of Knoxville, Tennessee, Brent Whitman of Alabama, and Jerry Whitman of Florida; also, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a sister Kim.

Visitation and funeral service were Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment followed in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family.

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Richard Noel

RICHARD NOEL

(January 16, 1932 – December 2, 2021)

Mr. Richard Noel, 89, of Van Buren Township, Michigan, passed away on December 2, 2021 at his home following a battle with Parkinson Disease. He was born on January 16, 1932 in Providence, Rhode Island, a son of Grace Cordin Noel. In 1955 he was married to Joan Bennett. Following their marriage they moved to Saline, Michigan, from Rhode Island. Sadly, Mrs. Noel preceded him in death on November 11, 2001. Richard was a proud member of the Metropolitan Church of Detroit. Prior to his retirement he had been employed by J.S. Barnes.

Mr. Noel is survived by his loving daughter Bonnie Noel-Eberts (Robin) and his grandson J.T. He was preceded in death by his wife and his son David Noel.

In keeping with Mr. Noel's wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial service in Mr. Noel's honor is being planned for a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville, (734) 697-9400. Please keep Mr. Noel's family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

Please let us fondly remember him as he left us on Thursday, December 2, with a look of peace and gratitude as he met his creator and was rejoined with his beloved family members, friends and furry people.

BHS at-home game

• Friday, Dec 17: Varsity Bowling vs. Wayne Memorial at Lodge Lanes, 3 p.m.
Go, Tigers!
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Belleville High School Athletic Secretary



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Kanira Gregory of Belleville High School won second place in the VFW Post 4434 Voice of Democracy essay contest. She was presented with a plaque and a check for \$175 from Post Commander John Blackstone. With Kanira are her mother Yolanda Smith and her sister Genesis Clemons.



Veterans of Foreign Wars 4434 Commander John Blackstone, right, presents Emma Lucas of Owen Intermediate School with the post's second place award in the Patriot's Pen essay contest. She received a plaque and a check for \$175. At left is Emma's mother, Brenda Lucas.



Varshnavi Tummala of Washtenaw International High School (WIHI) won top place in the VFW Post 4434 Voice of Democracy essay contest. She was presented with a plaque and a check for \$250 by VFW Commander John Blackstone. With her, from left, is her grandmother Sita Pasupulch, mother Bhavya Tummala and her father Gopi Tummala. Her essay will proceed to district judging.



Olivia Underwood of Owen Intermediate School was presented with a plaque and a check for \$250 for her first-place award in the Patriot's Pen essay contest put on by VFW Post 4434. Presenting the award is Post Commander John Blackstone, right. With Olivia are her parents Christine and Scott Underwood, her brother Owen and her sister Madelyn. Her essay now goes to district for judging.

The Pledge of Allegiance

From The Red Skelton Hour, January 14, 1969

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Laswell was his name. He said: "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

I - me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge - dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance - my love and my devotion.

To the Flag - our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

Of the United - that means that we have all come together.

States - individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

Of America.

And to the Republic - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For Which it Stands.

One Nation - meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible - incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - The principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all - which means it's as much your country as it is mine.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance - "under God."

Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

RED SKELTON

This clipping was found tucked into the pages of Marian Kuchta's personal diary for 1969. Marian and Stephen Kuchta, Sr., moved their young family into a 100-year-old house in Van Buren Township in 1937 and lived there all their lives, bringing a spirit of gratitude and giving to each day. This clipping is shared by their surviving children Anthony Kuchta, Sr., and Rosemary Otzman. Richard Red Skelton was an American entertainer best known for his national radio and television shows between 1937 and 1971, especially as host of the television program The Red Skelton Show.

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Walk Ins & Appointments

City of Belleville

(continued from page 3)

\$984.04 for repair of the dump truck for the DPW;

• Heard Chief Robinson report that two officers are being promoted to sergeants and they will be at the Dec. 20 meeting. The department has gone without sergeants since the late 1990s. He said the two passed their written and oral tests. He said

he is working on a Wayne County grant for total refurbishing of Victory Station for use by senior citizens during the day and social services and other things in the evening. He is considering additions, like new bathrooms and a kitchen. He said the county had told him the green building next to the police department would be torn down by winter and he has been calling the county every day. When snowflakes started falling he called the county and said, "It's

winter." He was told the county is getting a special contractor to make sure they don't damage city hall when the former store is torn down;

• Heard Councilwoman Kelly Bates report that \$700 was raised out of the veterans' banners program and the holiday lights decorating contest will be judged from 6 to 7 p.m. on Dec. 13. She also announced the city has free gun locks to distribute;

• Heard 7th Day Adventist Pastor Nathaniel Oregon announced that his church is moving him to an Alma/Ithaca assignment and someone else will be assigned to the Belleville church. He said his father died of COVID and now his mother is diagnosed with stage four cancer. He said Belleville has a special place in his heart and it is sad to leave it behind. He brought two elders of the church with him to the meeting. He recalled that five years ago he came to Belleville and told them his goal was to work on the spiritual, mental, and physical health of the community. Mayor Conley said his leaving is a loss to the community. He was praised by council members for his activities, including serving on the parks commission, putting on the free dental clinics, and other events and services;

• Heard Mayor Pro Tem Voigt speak about the need to do something about the deteriorating split rail fence that serves as an important barrier between the play equipment at Victory Park and the busy roadway beyond. DPW Director Rick Rutherford said they replaced eight or ten sections last spring and now the uprights

are splitting. He said they should put up a sign "Do not sit on the fence." Voigt said although he likes the look of the split rail, maybe they should look at a more durable solution, which could be cheaper in the long run. Mayor Conley suggested there might not be enough seating around the play equipment so they sit on the fence. Voigt also asked about finding a way to test the compaction on road repairs so they don't sink down and cause problems; and

• Heard Mayor Conley say Winter Fest was a great end to a very difficult year. Councilman Jones said there were more people this year than it has had in the past and the pop-up shops were very popular. Councilwoman Henry said there were 25 vendors in the tent and six to seven in another building.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Amy Henry, left, and Steve Jones, center, was sworn into their new seats on the Belleville City Council at the Dec. 6 meeting. Swearing them in was 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley, right, who congratulated them after giving them their oaths. They replace Thomas Fielder and Jesse Marcotte who did not run for reelection.

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ORPHAN OF THE WEEK WANDA



MEET WANDA!

Hi, I'm **Wanda** and all I want this holiday season is to finally be picked to come home. I'm a long, lean and likable 8 month old kitten. My favorite thing in the world is to play, play, play! I also like getting lots of attention, pets and snuggles from visitors. I get along great with all the other cats too. They tell me I have something called Pectus Excavatum, or "funnel chest". In a nutshell, my sternum didn't develop properly and my chest is a bit sunken in. After the vet examined me, he said "Just let her be a kitten" and that's just what I've been doing. I guess as long as I stay slim and not gain too much weight I can live many years. So please when you're thinking about getting a kitten this holiday season think of me **Wanda**. To make an appointment to meet me, fill out an application at friendsofmichigan.org. I'm spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. I hope to meet you soon!

VBT DDA will pay for license plate recognition cameras in its district

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority agreed to pay for up to ten license plate recognition cameras within its district at its zoom meeting Nov. 23.

Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara explained the program along with Ryan Elswick of Flock, the company that the township approved at its Nov. 16 meeting to erect about 30 cameras throughout the township at a cost of \$2,500 per camera per year. The exact number of cameras in the DDA district is yet to be determined as the police department plans locations.

Elswick and Police Chief Jason Wright answered questions and Director Mark Laginess made the motion to approve paying the annual fees for up to ten cameras in their district and vice-chairman Carol Bird seconded. The motion carried.

In other business at the hour-long meeting, the DDA:

- Heard VBT Director of Community Services Elizabeth Renaud give an update on the status of the Community Center Project and the Black Box/Cube Theater;

- Heard DDA Executive Director Susan Ireland inform the board that the holiday lights were put up in Harris Park and at the Quirk Road triangle on Nov. 18. She also said the owner of Old Glory Flags & Flagpoles has retired. Ireland said she was disappointed that he changed out the flag banners before Veteran's Day and felt that it may have been done early because of his decision to retire. She said staff will be going out for quotes on the banner services and hopes to bring something back to the board in early 2022. She also announced the keyless entry access pad has been installed on the mechanical room door. This will enable staff to control access and unlock/relock the door remotely should that be necessary;

- Heard Ireland report on the Michigan Downtown Association annual conference that was held in Detroit on Nov. 4 and 5. Ireland was a presenter for the Introduction to Public Finance and Policy session;

- Heard Assistant Executive Director Lisa Lothringer report that the second of the two required annual "informational meetings" has been scheduled for 10 a.m., Dec. 1, via zoom. She said notices were

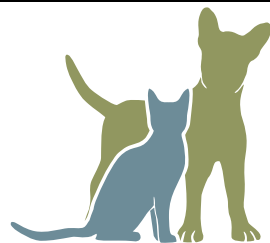
mailed to the taxing jurisdictions and posted as required by law; and

- Also, heard Lothringer report on her marketing and outreach activities, including an update on the status of the new website design. She stated she worked with Aerotropolis to provide copy and photos for an advertorial with WDIV-Channel 4 for a publicity piece paid for by Aerotropolis as part of a marketing package it has with WDIV.



Independent photo by Bob Mytych
Luke Budd holds the state trophy won by Belleville High School football team in front of the team's float in the Dec. 4 Winter Fest parade.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The Belleville Rotary Club delivered its first round of new coats for specific needy students to the Van Buren Public Schools administration building on Dec. 1. Another batch of coats was coming in another planned delivery. From left is Rotary president Deb Green, Rotary vice president Mary Jo Suchy, administrative assistant to the superintendent Debra McWilliams, and School Supt. Pete Kudlak. This is an annual Rotary project.



Photo by Mary Jo Suchy
Belleville Rotary Club president Deb Green, right, presented a book to *Independent* editor Rosemary Oztman on Nov. 30 after Oztman spoke to the club. The Rotary regularly presents books to speakers that they sign and then the book is donated to the Belleville Area District Library. This book was about places to visit in North America.

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Charges refiled against two who allegedly robbed Belleville bank

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sergio Luis Bellew and Scott Allen Hall were before 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green on Dec. 1 for their arraignments and probable cause conference on charges of robbing the Belleville Chase bank on April 16.

Bellew, 26, of River Rouge, was present virtually from the Wayne County Jail, where he is being held, and Hall, 35, was present virtually from a treatment facility.

Bellew's preliminary exam was set for noon on Jan. 19 at 34th District Court. Hall waived his preliminary exam and was scheduled for a Dec. 8 arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

The original bank robbery charges filed in May were dismissed on Sept. 29 by Judge Lisa Martin on a motion by the defense since a necessary witness in the case was in Florida and could not testify.

The charges were dismissed with prejudice so they could be refiled and they were refiled on Nov. 8.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor

Alex Kurrie said there will be three or four witnesses in Bellew's preliminary exam and Assistant Prosecutor Jane Gillis said they will have to fly a witness in from Florida.

Hall's appointed attorney John McWilliams said his client will waive the preliminary exam and go right to circuit court. He is in drug treatment at a facility and doing well, McWilliams said of Hall.

The two also were charged with robbing a bank in Redford Township on April 15, the day before the Belleville robbery.

Hall was accused of driving the getaway cars in both robberies. The preliminary exam for the Redford Township case was set for Aug. 17 at 17th District Court.

On Sept. 7, Hall waived his preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information. Bellew held his exam on Sept. 7 and was bound over to circuit court. Their arraignments on the information were held Sept. 14 and a calendar conference set for Oct. 19 before Circuit Court Judge Bridget Mary Hathaway.

A motion hearing in Bellew's Redford Township case now has been set for Jan. 10. Bellew's bond had been set at \$500,000 cash or surety with a tether if released.

Hall's personal bond was set for \$100,000 with a tether. An evidentiary hearing in his Redford Township case was set for Feb. 8 for Hall.

Bellew's appointed defense attorney is Lillian Diallo.

Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson said the suspect, later identified as Bellew, entered the bank in Belleville and presented a note to the teller demanding money on April 16. There was no weapon seen or implied, he said.

The Belleville Chase bank also was robbed on Nov. 7, 2020 by a man who had robbed the Chase bank in Canton on Nov. 5, 2020. Joe Stafford, 55, of Powder Springs, GA, was sentenced to 4-15 years in prison after pleading guilty to the Canton robbery. In exchange for his guilty plea on May 25, the Belleville charge was dismissed.

Final conference now set for Jan. 11 in murder case of Egypt Covington

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The final conference in the Wayne County Circuit Court cases against three men accused in the 2017 shooting death of Egypt Covington has been reset from Dec. 10 to Jan. 11 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

The final conference had been set before Circuit Court Judge Wanda A. Evans for Oct. 6 but was adjourned to Nov. 17 and then Dec. 10 and now to Jan. 11 at the request of the defense.

The accused perpetrators have been in the Wayne County Jail since their arrests in late 2020. Being held are Timothy Eugene Moore, 35, of Toledo; Shandon R Groom, 28, of Toledo; and Shane Lamar Evans, 32, of Sumpter Township.

Moore and Groom are charged with first-degree murder, felony murder, home invasion first-degree, and three charges of felony firearm in the June 22, 2017 shooting death of Jacqueline Elizabeth "Egypt" Covington, 27, in the Van Buren Township duplex where she lived on Hull Road.

Moore is also charged with another felony firearm charge.

Evans is charged with felony murder and home invasion first-degree.

All would face life in prison if convicted of the charges.

Egypt was a 2007 graduate of Belleville High School and a popular local singer. She was employed as an account manager for beer and wine distributor Rave and had worked at Johnny's and Bayou Grill in Belleville.

Mackenzie Matheny wins manufacturing scholarship at EMU

Twenty-three students pursuing manufacturing careers received scholarships toward their post-secondary studies from Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs® (NBT), the foundation of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, International® (FMA).

For the spring 2022 semester, NBT awarded scholarships valued between \$1,500 and \$2,500 each to students across the country.

One of the winners is Mackenzie Matheny of Belleville who is studying product design engineering technology at Eastern Michigan University. Matheny is a recipient of the John Grossheim Memorial (OPC) Scholarship.

"We are pleased to award scholarships

to these deserving students and are happy to assist them in reaching their academic goals," said Edward Youdell, president of NBT. "They recognize that skilled manufacturing careers can be rewarding financially and fulfilling personally. The knowledge and skills they obtain will help them be more competitive in the current job market.

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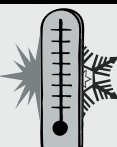
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The Environmental Services Division of Wayne County Public Services invites those in Wayne County to take their household hazardous waste to the Environmental Recycling Group, 13040 Merriman Rd., Livonia 48150 through the end of the year.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Dec. 31. Visitors can access the building from the south parking lot off Industrial Road.

Vouchers are required and can be picked up at the Belleville city hall front desk, at Sumpter Township hall, and in the Parks and Recreation office at Van Buren Township hall.

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- Dec. 19 – Cheryl Toms, Mary Jane Egan, Anna Avdolli
- Dec. 20 – Jenny Hawkins
- Dec. 21 – Marcie Dorow, Jaytin Saulsberry
- Dec. 22 – Candace Myshock
- Dec. 23 – Kevin Lee

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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“ Anyone who stops learning is old whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. “
– Henry Ford

Sumpter Twp. board accepts Cole's offer to help during transition

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

During a virtual special meeting on Nov. 30, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved taking up Michelle Cole's offer to help for eight hours a week during the transition caused by her resignation as township administrator.

The first item on the agenda was acceptance of Cole's resignation letter that she presented Nov. 22 and which took effect Nov. 29.

Trustee Peggy Morgan asked that the motion to accept the resignation have the words "with regret" added to it and that was agreed to. When she cast her vote, Trustee Morgan said, "Yes, with a heavy heart."

Supervisor Tim Bowman voted yes and added, "with a very, very heavy heart."

Clerk Esther Hurst asked that the board add to the motion that they accept Cole's resignation from other positions she also held, namely financial director and deputy supervisor. The motion was amended.

The board then discussed the vacancy for more than an hour and unanimously decided to pay Cole \$95 an hour not to exceed eight hours a week for three months. Township attorney Rob Young said the length of the agreement could be shortened or lengthened in the future.

Meanwhile, the board will post the position and refer it to the hiring committee.

The board also voted to divide up responsibilities with accounting and payroll under the clerk's office, water and building departments under the supervisor's office, IT under Public Safety Director/Police Chief Eric Luke, and continuation of Mackenzie Glinski of Huron Township doing payroll at a rate of \$30 per hour under the clerk's department.

Attorney Young was directed to draft a contract for Cole to work eight hours a week with directions from the supervisor, treasurer, clerk, and Chief Luke.

When the board was first deciding Cole's pay to help, \$45 an hour was suggested and Cole said she would have to think that over. She said \$45 is low, since they are paying \$30 for payroll. She said Cari Ford, who has credentials similar to Cole's, was

being paid \$95 an hour.

Trustee Matthew Oddy made the motion to pay Cole a rate of \$95 an hour and this was passed by the board.

Young said he would write a contract that would detail that Cole would be called determined by the needs of the four officials and they would focus on the Wednesday she has off from her new job. Oddy reminded him they have to limit it to eight hours.

Cole said on other days she would be able to help on her lunch break or other breaks and could call them back.

"She should be compensated for her time," stated Supervisor Bowman.

Trustee Morgan said she trusts Cole to keep honest records and let the township know the time spent.

Oddy said she should be scheduled and they need to know her lunch hours and what hours she is available on a Wednesday.

Bowman repeated it is important that she is compensated for her time, but this should not be considered "open ended," as stated by Trustee Don LaPorte.

Young said if there is an emergency, the person who put her beyond the eight hours would explain the details of the emergency.

"Is Michelle going to be turning in all of the keys since she won't be coming in any more?" asked Clerk Hurst.

Trustee Tim Rush said security issues should not be discussed publicly and the board can discuss that on Wednesday.

Oddy made another motion to ask Cole to write a summary for the board on grants, contracts, when they were submitted, when they were due, to help the board determine which issues to tackle first with the resources they have.

Young said Cole will start the next day, a Wednesday, even though the contract is not signed.

During the discussion, Trustee Morgan said she read the email from financial consultant Cari Ford to the board members and, "She's not willing to take on more."

Ford was hired Sept. 1 as an independent contractor to take on finance and accounting duties that she originally handled when she worked at the township for Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne.

Morgan said it's a shame the township had to lose Cole because they didn't hire a financial director and didn't hire a fulltime payroll person.

Oddy disagreed with Morgan, saying he talked to Ford and Ford is excited that Glinski will be doing payroll. Oddy said he thinks the township did quite well in providing support for Cole. He said now Cole can help, but not lead, and they have to have leadership. He suggested the supervisor, clerk, and treasurer, along with Luke taking over the leadership for the things Cole was doing.

Morgan asked Cole if she read Ford's email and Cole said she had. Morgan asked her if she agreed with her comments and Cole replied, "Cari Ford is a very truthful person."

Trustee LaPorte asked if Ford is capable of transferring money and Cole said yes, she was capable, "But, you'd have to talk to her. I don't know if she has time" to do more than she's doing now for Sumpter. Cole said, actually, the money is transferred in the treasurer's department.

She said she just wants to put the tools in place for Sumpter Township to take off running and be successful.

Morgan said she knows Cole worked the previous night so payroll could go through. Cole said the township has Glinski through the end of the year.

Trustee LaPorte said they could ask Glinski to stay longer.

Rush insisted that Chief Luke be given a chance to speak and Luke said he would be glad to take up the slack in IT and it is vital that they be able to use the information Cole has. He said she's been "in this since the beginning ... and I'd like to continue working with Michelle ... She's been our main IT for years and saved us a lot of money ... She talked to me earlier today and last week" and she can continue to help.

Luke said completing the new phone system is a huge project that needs to be completed and fiber optics need to be completed for the police department. He's not sure what the MERS issue is that was mentioned by Rush, but he will do whatever he can to help the township.

This is the letter sent to the township board on Nov. 22 commenting on the resignation of Michelle (Elle) Cole

To the Sumpter Township Board:

Elle has desperately needed HR/Payroll

help which she has not been able to get. I believe she is now on her way out the door because she has not been able to get the support she needs. Asking for a Finance Director/HR has just slowed the process because that is a lot harder position to fill and really not the support she needs.

It is very, very hard to get good finance people, and Elle has been amazing. Her commitment to the Township has been unequalled.

I want to make sure that the Board understands that if the Township loses her, we are in HUGE trouble. I do not have the knowledge or availability to step in and cover what she has been doing. I am struggling to catch up the general ledger work after being locked out of the Township during COVID.

Sadly, I'm not sure anything can be done at this point. I think she has gone too long feeling unsupported, unappreciated, and disrespected.

I am sending this because I care about the Township and want to make sure you fully understand what it may be facing. I will do what I can if requested, but I do not have any more availability than I have been offering. It will not be like when I came in and picked up where Scott Holtz left off. I am panicked at the thought of even trying to cover her...

Cari Ford

Area residents invited to experience holidays in Canton's Heritage Park

From Dec. 3 to 31, visitors to Canton's Heritage Park can experience seasonal light displays and festive decorations set up around the scenic large pond during Holidays in Heritage Park.

Area residents of all ages are invited to stroll through the park with family and friends while viewing holiday lights, featuring reindeer, snowflakes, elves, and more from 5 to 8 p.m. at no cost.

"This is the first year that visitors to Heritage Park can enjoy some extra holiday cheer provided by Canton's seasonal lights that will be on display every evening from 5 to 8 p.m. through Dec. 31," said Laura Mortier, recreation supervisor. "We're hoping that Holidays in Heritage Park becomes an annual tradition and holiday experience that we'll be able to keep adding more and more festive displays to each year."

Heritage Park is located behind the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Rd. in Canton Township. For more information visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

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Santa, Mrs. Claus, and a slew of elves will be at Flowers in the Mitten florist in Romulus this Saturday, Dec. 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies. Owner Rachel Botu offers a unique selection of gifts and handmade items for last-minute shoppers. They're located at 36726 Goddard Rd. Santa will also greet children and give away stockings this Saturday at the Belleville District Library from noon until 4 p.m. Children and adults with special needs can show up, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Photos are free, but donations will be accepted. The event is sponsored by the Belleville Central Business Community. Santa will also make a final appearance in town next Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bayou Grill on Main Street. Children will be able to get in a last-minute letter to Santa, enjoy craft-making and hot chocolate.

The Bethany Bible Choir will present "I Call Him Lord," a free concert this Saturday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the church, on East Huron River Drive. There will also be free cookies and punch following the performance and childcare will be available for children 4 years old and younger. The concert will also take place at Sunday Service on Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. The public is invited.

The Bake Shoppe on Savage Road at Bemis is taking holiday orders through Sunday, Dec. 19, for breads, pies, cakes, cheesecakes, angel wings, pastries, and much more. Their traditional Christmas cookies are also in. They'll be closing at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve and won't reopen until Jan. 25. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 699-2236.

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Congratulations to our very own Kevin Walsh and everyone at the Yankee Air Museum for achieving the highest award in the air show industry, the Sword of Excellence Award, for his 23 years as director of Thunder Over Michigan, the annual air show at Willow Run Airport. The announcement was made at the recent International Council of Airshows convention last week in Las Vegas. The annual event is a gathering of directors, planners, and air show performers who announce their schedules for 2022, and beyond. Willow Run Airport will host the Canadian Snowbirds and the CF-18 Hornet Demonstration Team for a weekday performance on June 8 and the Blue Angels at Thunder Over Michigan the weekend of July 16-17. All shows will be a drive-in format like this past summer. Visit www.yankeearmuseum.org for tickets.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

Speed Marcell Miller arrested for home invasion in VBT

Speed Marcell Miller, 25, of Romulus had his probable cause conference adjourned from Dec. 8 to Dec. 22 at 34th District Court on charges of home invasion first degree and domestic violence on Nov. 24 in Van Buren Township. Defense attorney Kendrick Riggins is waiting for discovery to be sent by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Sona Movsisyan. Miller is being held in the Wayne County Jail on bond of \$50,000/10% and if released must have no contact with the victim or an address on North Bellridge.

One Call Does It All At the Independent 699-9020

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID: 860 3892 3778 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin and Trustee Miller. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Deputy Supervisor Selman, Director of Planning and Economic Development Power, Human Resource Director Sumpter, Water and Sewer Director Saums, and a maximum audience of twenty (20).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved; Miller seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA: Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Work Study Session Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021, Closed Session Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021, Prepaid List of November 18, 2021, Prepaid List of November 25, 2021, Prepaid List of December 2, 2021, Voucher List of December 7, 2021, Approval of the 2022 Holiday Schedule, Approval of the Revised 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule, Approval of Resolution 2021-29 Authorizing entry of state local government intrastate agreement concerning allocation of settlement proceeds in the National Opioids Litigation, Approval of Resolution 2021-31 Authorizing entry of participation agreements in partial settlement of the Nation Prescription Opiate Litigation, Approval of Resolution 2021-32 Annual Exemption (Opt Out), Approval of the Appointment of Elaine Gutierrez to the Board of Review with a term to expire December 31, 2022, Approval of the Re-

Appointments of Dolores Hogan, Mary Korgal, Patricia Sobecki, Patricia Tumas and Helen Wylie to the Endowment Committee with terms to expire January 15, 2024. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E /

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

The Treasurer's office will be open on December 30, 2021 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. to receive tax payments, the Township Administrative offices will be closed December 23, 2021 until January 4, 2022, Representative Ranjeev Puri provided a legislative update, observed a moment of silence for those lost in the recent school shooting in Oakland County, indicated statewide legislative redistricting is nearing completion, offered congratulations to the Belleville High School Football team for winning the State Championship title,

gave an update on the Covid-19 infection rate within Van Buren Township and encouraged residents to get vaccinated and follow CDC recommended guidelines to stay safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved; Budd seconded to approve the second (final) reading of Ordinance 11-16-21 (1) to rezone Parcel # V-83-041-99-004-001 (42061 Ecorse Rd) from C-1 (General Business to M-1 (Light Industrial). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved; Miller seconded to approve the Personal Services Agreement between the Township and Charles (Christopher) Campbell for the Communications Specialist position and to approve the Personal Services Agreement between the Township and Michael Japowicz for the Communications Specialist position. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

Wright moved; Miller seconded to approve the adoption of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy and approval of an update to the Policy and Procedures manual to include this policy. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Wright seconded to approve the Personal Services Agreement between the Township and Kathy Adams for the Treasury Specialist position. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve the Resolution 2021-30 A 15-year contract extension for wastewater services with Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (Y.C.U.A.). Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Boynton seconded to the agreement between the Township and Motorola for dispatch upgrades. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Ms. Gutierrez thanked the Board for her appointment to the Board of Review.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA

ITEMS: Treasurer Budd acknowledged the passing of Mr. Cullin who was an active member in the community and requested a moment of silence, Trustee Boynton thanked the board, the employees, and the community for their support during his first year of service, Board members wished everyone a happy holiday season, happy and prosperous new year.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
Published: December 16, 2021

City of Belleville Public Notice

POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON Wednesday, December 22nd, 2021 at 10 am, at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicle(s) will be held:

2005 Chevrolet, Equinox, VIN: 2CNDL63F056099554

2009 Buick, Lacrosse, VIN : 2G4WD582991239321

DATE: December 14, 2021

**BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
6 MAIN STREET**

PUBLISH: December 16, 2021

BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

**BY BRIANA HOOTMAN,
CITY CLERK**

VBT Board of Trustees approves 4-year police patrol, dispatch contract

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its Nov. 16 meeting the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees approved a new four-year contract with the Police Officers Labor Council which represents the patrol officers and dispatch employees.

The current POLC contract will expire Dec. 31. The new contract runs from Jan. 1, 2022 to Dec. 31, 2025.

The township board went into three, sessions closed to the public during negotiations.

After the board took action on the contract, POLC president Adam Byrd thanked the board on the vaccination agreement and said the union, as well as the board, had a hard discussion and got to middle ground and came to a decision.

Changes in the new contract include the

following:

- Police officers will be required to pass firearm qualification annually as determined by MCOLES instead of the employer. Qualifications take place annually and the township will supply the ammunition required;

- Seniority shall be determined as the length of service from the last date of hire into a bargaining unit position. Police

employees shall acquire seniority upon completion of their probationary period of one year which shall date from the original date of hiring. Dispatch shall acquire seniority upon completion of their probationary period of one year, which shall start on their swear-in date;

- At all times the township will maintain at least three patrol cars. It used to be two on days and three on nights;

- Police officers shall not be required to handle animal complaints historically handled by the animal control officer unless it is an emergency;

- The employer shall post and email all open positions and assignments at least 14 days from filling that assignment. Also, all dispositions for internal investigations shall be concluded within a timely fashion. Also, in imposing a disciplinary penalty, the employer will not take into account any prior oral reprimand that was issued more than one year earlier and any prior written reprimand that was issued more than three years earlier;

- Added the Recruiting Unit and Accreditation Unit to the list of specialized assignments that can be used in determining promotions;

- An employee shall not work more than 18 hours for the township in a 24-hour period, which begins when an employee starts working. There must be at least an eight-hour break before an employee can start another shift of employment with the township. Full-time employees shall be compensated from their original start time without penalty from taking the eight-hour break. Also, if management elects to extend a shift without using the overtime roster, the employee with the least hours shall be asked if they wish to have their shift extended. If that employee turns the overtime down, the next in line will be asked until the list is exhausted in which case the employee with the lowest hours will be ordered;

- Wages were set for full-time patrol officers and dispatch: annual salary based on 2,184 hours will go from \$60,169.20 (\$27.55 per hour) for probationary officers in 2021 to \$64,795.65 (\$29.67) for probationary officers in 2025. Patrol officers with 48 months and one day on the job will go from \$71,263.92 (\$32.63) in 2021 to \$82,115.49 (\$37.60) in 2025. Dispatcher wages go from \$21.12 per hour for probationary status in 2021 to \$29.10 per hour for dispatchers with 48 months and one day of service in 2025;

- Management has discretion to hire new employees at a higher rate of pay based upon previous MCOLES certified law enforcement experience. This shall not impact seniority or any other paid time off;

- Full-time employees will receive four personal leave days annually. It was three days in the expiring contract. Sick time is extended to any immediate family member. Compensatory time will have a cap of 84 hours, instead of the current 72 hours;

(continued on page 19)

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE 11-16-21(1)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ZONING ORDINANCE 05-2-17(2) AS AMENDED, BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

The Charter Township of Van Buren Ordains:

SECTION 1. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The Zoning Map in connection with the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance shall be amended as follows:

Ordinance No. 11-16-21(1)

An ordinance to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Zoning Ordinance 05-02-17(2), as amended, to amend the zoning map by rezoning parcel V- 83 041 99 0004 001; otherwise known as 42061 Ecorse Road from C-1, General Business Commercial District to M-1, Light Industrial.

This property is located on the south side of Ecorse Road between Kirkridge Park Drive and Haggerty Road.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY

In the event any article, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or word of this ordinance is deemed invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion deemed severable and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. REPEALER.

Any and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby ordered to take effect seven (7) days after publication of the notice of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township. This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within fifteen (15) days of passage. A copy of this Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 during normal business hours.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 7 day of December, 2021.

YEAS: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Boynton, Frazier, Martin and Miller

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance,

Leon Wright, Clerk

Kevin McNamara, Supervisor

Adopted: December 7, 2021

Published: December 16, 2021 (Proposed)

Effective: December 23, 2021 (Proposed)

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 250 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 5:
0055 – property damage accident, W. Huron River
0107 – assist other dept., E. Main St.
0127 – suspicious person/vehicle, Robbe Rd.
0141 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arcadia Ct. /
Hardwood Dr.
0558 – breaking & entering, Fay Dr.
0734 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Haggerty Rd.
0851 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
0917 – hospice death, America
1028 – welfare check, Southport Apartments
1201 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
1212 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Hull
1239 – welfare check, Aspen
1343 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1348 – traffic offense, Rawsonville/Martz Rd.
1504 – mental subject, S. Bellridge Dr.
1509 – civil matter, Elwell Rd.
1547 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ S. Grove Rd.
1750 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1756 – harassment call, Park Estates Dr.
1840 – motorist assist, E. Huron River/Haggerty
1907 – juvenile complaint, Quirk Rd.
2050 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Tompkins St.
2309 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
Monday, Dec. 6:
0012 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pine Dr./Maple
0657 – follow up by officers, Parkwood Dr.
0803 – trespassing, Sawgrass Ct.
0959 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1247 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1254 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1509 – domestic, Anna Dr.
1538 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1622 – property check, Haggerty Sub.
1801 – assist fire dept., S. Ponderosa Trl.
1821 – suspicious person/vehicle, E. Archwood
1834 – Menards property check, Belleville Rd.
1852 – larceny from auto, E. Archwood Dr.
1956 – domestic, N. Woodbury Dr.
2036 – hospice death, Cambridge Ct.
2113 – assist fire dept., Maple Dr.
Tuesday, Dec. 7:
0121 – 911 welfare check, Village Green Ln.
0139 – assist citizen, Belleville Rd.
0331 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0859 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./I-275
1010 – suspicious person/vehicle, Winchester St.
1055 – suicidal person, Union St.
1131 – misc. complaint, Birch Dr.
1135 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1202 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
1258 – assist other dept., Sheldon Rd.
1318 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1412 – welfare check, Tyler Rd./Haggerty Rd.
1438 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1458 – suspicious person/vehicle, Vine St.
1544 – 911 welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1608 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr. /
Morton Taylor Rd.
1638 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1733 – larceny, Parkwood Dr.
1815 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hardwood Dr. /
Springwood Blvd.
1838 – Meijer property check, Belleville Rd.
1958 – parking complaint, Christina/Packard Ct.
2111 – disorderly, Quirk Rd.
2115 – assist other dept., E. Huron River Dr.
2201 – 911 welfare check, Denton Rd.
2210 – Walmart property check, Belleville Rd.
2215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Elwell/Reene
2305 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2313 – overdose, Belleville Rd.
Wednesday, Dec. 8:
0027 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0305 – Atchinson Ford property check, Belleville
0305 – Atchinson Ford property check, Belleville
0638 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0942 – motorist assist, E. I-94/Rawsonville ramp
1002 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1210 – animal complaint, W. Archwood Dr.
1235 – property damage accident, Ecorse/power
lines

1253 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1348 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
N. I-94 Service Dr.
1356 – fraud, Briarwood Dr.
1426 – found property/child, E. Huron River Dr.
1534 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1629 – property check, Arthur St./Buchanan St.
1743 – personal injury accident, Ecorse/Beck
1816 – traffic offense, Ecorse Service B. Dr.
1823 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty
Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.
1956 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
2059 – domestic, Sylvia Dr.
2210 – traffic offense, Quirk Rd./Belleville Rd.
2209 – unattended death, Stonebridge Dr.
Thursday, Dec. 9:
0109 – domestic, Denton Rd.
0137 – traffic offense, W. I-94/Belleville Rd.
0613 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0653 – suspicious person/vehicle, Briarwood Ct. /
Briarwood Dr.
0740 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0824 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0934 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0947 – assist other dept., High St./Edison Ave.
0958 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1010 – domestic, N. Woodbury Dr.
1034 – animal complaint, Clayton Rd.
1051 – suspicious person/vehicle, Liberty Ln.
1109 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.
1129 – larceny, Lighthouse Dr.
1137 – juvenile complaint, McBride
1210 – welfare check, Daniel Dr.
1248 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Amanda
Dr.
1344 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1359 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. /
E. I-94
1450 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.
1448 – harassment call, Hardwood Dr.
1453 – assist other dept., Plymouth High School
1615 – assist other dept., Cherry Hill/N. Canton
Center
1629 – fraud, Dorchester Dr.
1709 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd. /
Greenbriar Dr.
1849 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Belleville Rd.
1923 – assist other dept., Parkside Dr.
1924 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
Friday, Dec. 10:
0018 – leaving the scene of a property damage
accident, Belleville Rd.
0058 – family trouble, Denton Rd.
0457 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0823 – assist other dept., Bayshore Dr.
0955 – welfare check, Daniel Dr.
1040 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1302 – ordinance violation, Hawthorn Dr.
1322 – traffic offense, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell
1351 – lost property/child, Ironwood Dr.
1433 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa
1705 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service
Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1722 – welfare check, Victoria St.
1751 – domestic, Wildbrook Dr.
1919 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1935 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1947 – property damage accident, McBride Ave. /
Chatsworth Dr.
2022 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2254 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
Saturday, Dec. 11:
0036 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0315 – assist fire dept., Cedarhurst Dr.
0350 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
0705 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
Dr. / Hoeft Rd.
0722 – suspicious person/vehicle, Farm Rd.
0834 – private property/property damage accident,
N. I-94 Service Dr.
0908 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. /
Westlake Cir.
1059 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd./Chany Ave.
1101 – animal complaint, Savage Rd.
1156 – private property/property damage accident,
Rawsonville Rd.
1216 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.
1255 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd./E.
Huron River Dr.
1326 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1327 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1601 – larceny, Hannan Rd.

1607 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
1700 – abandoned auto, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron
River Dr.
1855 – property check, Belleville Rd.
1943 – private property/property damage accident,
Belleville Rd.
2026 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.
2051 – assist other dept., Amanda Dr.
2134 – family trouble, McKinley St.
2346 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
2349 – welfare check, Revere Dr.
Also on this week's log are 49 traffic stops, with one
of those on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 5:
0105 – fight, Main St.
0305 – intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
1033 – traffic stop, Tuscan Manor
1221 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1249 – misc. complaint, Sumpter Rd.
1350 – domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
1720 – welfare check, Carmell St.
1821 – traffic stop, Menlo Park Dr.
2008 – 911 welfare check, Henry St.
2226 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
Monday, Dec. 6:
0332 – misc. complaint, Main St.
0854 – threat, W. Columbia Ave.
1113 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. /
Denton Rd.
1206 – welfare check, Robbe St.
1331 – mental subject, E. Huron River Dr.
1358 – found property/child, Main St.
1752 – intrusion alarm, Breakwater Dr.
1954 – suspicious person/vehicle, Fourth St.
Tuesday, Dec. 7:
0945 – juvenile complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1013 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
1050 – threat, Owen St.
1353 – juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1724 – 911 welfare check, N. Liberty/Fifth St.
1913 – suspicious person/vehicle, Country Walk
2046 – suspicious person/vehicle, Henry St.
Wednesday, Dec. 8:
0138 – property check, W. Columbia Ave.
0147 – traffic stop, E. Columbia/Madelon St.
0204 – property check, S. Edgemont Ave.
0213 – property check, Owen St.
0313 – assist fire dept., Capistrano Ct.
0710 – 911 welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1250 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
1354 – follow up by officer, Sumpter Rd.
1440 – traffic stop, Main St.
1524 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr.
1637 – assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
2007 – larceny, Carmell St.
Thursday, Dec. 9:
0749 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./S. Liberty
0807 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0808 – traffic stop, E. Thornhill Ct./Victorian Ln.
0932 – traffic offense, High St./W. Columbia Ave.
0944 – juvenile complaint, High St./Edison Ave.
0954 – parking complaint, N. Liberty St.
1249 – traffic stop, High St./Church St.
1401 – traffic stop, High St./Main St.
1639 – traffic stop, Main St./Roys St.
1730 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
Friday, Dec. 10:
0033 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
0348 – assist other dept., Greylock St.
0819 – property damage accident, Main/Fifth
1034 – larceny, Menlo Park Dr.
1619 – disorderly, South St.
1738 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Belle Villa Blvd.
2021 – suspicious person/vehicle, Third St.
2026 – threat, Belle Villa Blvd.
2343 – welfare check, N. Liberty St./Third St.
Saturday, Dec. 11:
0027 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia
0447 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Second St.
0519 – suspicious person/vehicle, Savage Rd. /
Victorian Ln.
1153 – harassment call, N. Liberty St.
1212 – intrusion alarm, Owen St.
1858 – traffic offense, Main St./Third St.
1930 – intrusion alarm, Church St.
There were 13 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 5:
0213 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter
Rd. / Wear Rd.
1044 – traffic complaint/hazard, 24000 bl. Sherwood
Rd.
1155 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1345 – larceny, 48000 bl. Timbercreek Dr.
1351 – follow-up investigation, Huron Twp. PD
1439 – follow-up investigation, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
Rd.
2122 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.
2147 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
2315 – assist other agency, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
2334 – suspicious person, Rawsonville Rd./Bemis
2355 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Monday, Dec. 6:
0735 – animal complaint, Willow Rd./Haggerty
0813 – suspicious circumstance, 45000 bl. Willow
0921 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Carleton
West Rd.
1015 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1043 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
1058 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1105 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1106 – follow-up investigation, 8700 bl. Meadow
Springs Dr.
1113 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1358 – animal complaint, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.
1407 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1448 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Bohn
1653 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1737 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ Willis Rd.
Tuesday, Dec. 7:
0912 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
1007 – property damage accident, 7800 bl. Oakville
Waltz Rd.
1437 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1725 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
1922 – family trouble, Knollwood Rd.
1949 – family trouble, Knollwood Rd.
2119 – assist other agency, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
Wednesday, Dec. 8:
0017 – fire dept. assist, 8500 bl. Oakville Waltz
0148 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
0237 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0752 – civil matter, Knollwood Rd.
0908 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis
1108 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1232 – civil matter, Carriage Ln.
1402 – larceny, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1451 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis
1528 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1617 – suspicious circumstance, Wyoming St.
1632 – reckless driver, Sumpter Rd./Dunn Rd.
1735 – civil matter, Redwood St.
1812 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1819 – suspicious person, 20000 bl. Wilmot Rd.
1828 – civil matter, Redwood St.
1837 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1854 – fire dept. assist, Stonecrest Dr.
2051 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
Thursday, Dec. 9:
0824 – alarm, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.
1010 – follow-up investigation, 42000 bl. Bemis
1022 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1330 – suspicious circumstance, Greenmeadow Dr.
1751 – suspicious person, Wayside Dr.
1820 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
2136 – welfare check, 9400 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
2355 – fire dept. assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
Friday, Dec. 10:
1037 – fire dept. assist, 9700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1300 – assist other agency, Rustic Ln.
1349 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1452 – juvenile complaint, Knollwood Rd.
1557 – assist other agency, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1625 – neighbor dispute, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
1830 – fire dept. assist, Oregon St.
2104 – suspicious circumstance, Sumpter/Bemis
2326 – alarm, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
Saturday, Dec. 11:
0036 – suspicious vehicle, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
0134 – traffic complaint/hazard, Karr Rd./Judd Rd.
0141 – civil matter, Greenmeadow Dr.
0201 – suspicious person, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
0436 – family trouble, Greenmeadow Dr.
(Continued on page 19)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

0639 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0818 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1055 – traffic complaint/hazard, Sumpter/Wear
1159 – 911 hang up, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1240 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd.
Judd Rd.
1244 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd.
Judd Rd.

1555 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1642 – juvenile complaint, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1740 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Wear Rd.
1822 – property damage accident, 45000 bl. Harris
1828 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1848 – suspicious vehicle, 5600 bl. Oakville Waltz
2044 – shots fired, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
Also on this week's log are 113 patrol checks, 24 traffic stops and five misc. details.

"A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves."

– Bertrand de Jouvenel

Give the gift that will keep on giving for a whole year!

A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

It's so easy, just fill out the coupon below and mail it to us. We'll do the rest! No crowds, no driving in bad weather, no hassles! And the best part is, it's only \$35.00 for a full year (\$40 outside of Michigan).

The recipient will receive a Christmas card letting them know you sent them their subscription.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FOR

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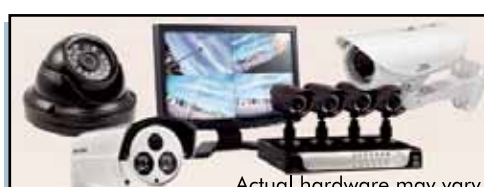
Send your check or money order for \$35.00 (\$40.00 outside of Michigan) to:
Belleville-Area Independent, 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI 48111
Or, give us a call at (734)699-9020 (Credit or Debit cards only)

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Belleville Yacht Club's float won the Grand Marshal's award in the Dec. 4 Winter Fest parade.

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*

VBT Contract

(continued from page 17)

- The employer will grant a three-day leave with pay for two employees to attend the Police Officers Labor Council Conference, up from two days;

- The employer will provide life / accidental death and dismemberment insurance of \$50,000 to full-time police, up from \$45,000 in the last contract. Full-time dispatch will get \$50,000 in insurance coverage, up from the previous \$25,000;

- The employer shall be required to contribute a minimum of 13% (up from 12%) in addition to the 13% contributed by the employee to the MERS pension plan. The employer shall fund any amount above the 26% as required by the MERS pension plan.

Letter of Understanding on vaccinations

A letter of understanding on COVID-19

vaccinations, signed on July 30, 2021, is attached to the contract.

Union employees had until Sept. 16 to provide proof of vaccination. Any union members with shots received a \$500 incentive bonus. In the event there is 100% compliance, another incentive of \$250 each will be paid.

Union members that receive an inoculation that results in any side effects shall receive up to two sick days not charged to their sick bank and may be allowed additional time depending on verification from the member's physician. That section expired Oct. 1.

Those not receiving the vaccination will have to wear masks, maintain social distancing, be tested every seven days at the expense of the employer, and non-compliance may result in discipline.

Any other matters that arise from COVID-19 and are not spelled out in the letter of understanding shall be negotiated.

MURDER MYSTERIES WILL TRAVEL

and the
BELLEVILLE AREA KIWANIS CLUB

invite you to a
Murder Mystery Dinner Event

RECIPE FOR MURDER!

Tuesday, December 28, 2021
6:00 pm
Eagle Hall
9961 Beck Road Belleville, MI

Tickets \$25.00 pp person /dinner & show

Reservations are limited to 100 guests

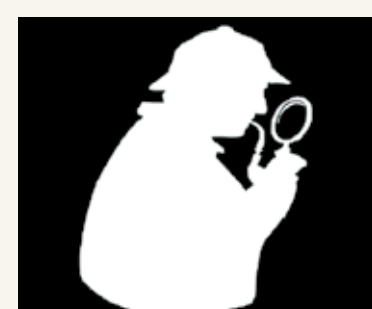
For credit card purchases: (Visa/MC/Amex accepted)

Call Tricia Evanski-Jarrell (571) 814-8212 or email

SherwoodRdProductions@gmail.com

For cash ticket purchases:

contact Karen Skszek-Mida (734) 635-1208



Proceeds will benefit "Friday Fill Up" a program sponsored by the Trinity Episcopal Church in Belleville, MI filling up backpacks with food donations to ensure no child in our community goes hungry

Recommended age for show 14 years & older
Vaccinations Required
Advance reservations only. No tickets will be sold at the door.



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BELLEVILLE LAKE



47677 N SHORE, VAN BUREN

5,920 SQUARE FOOT Belleville Lake Estate. 3 Br, 3 1/2 Ba, 1st Fl Master, Library, Fireplace, Sunroom, Basement. 200 Ft Lakefront, 1 Acre. One of the Finest Parcels Available \$1,050,000.

ENJOY BELLEVILLE LAKE



545 HIGH STREET, BELLEVILLE

EXPERIENCE UNDISTURBED LAKESIDE MORNINGS. Updated 3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath Home. Living Room w/Fireplace, Hardwood Floors, Full Basement 2 1/2 Car Garage \$349,900

NEW LISTING



254 E HURON RIVER DR, BELLEVILLE

CITY OF BELLEVILLE 3 Bedrooms 1 Bath home with Living Room, Family Room, Dining Room and Basement. Large Yard with 2 Car Garage. Home needs some attention. \$160,000 Cash

NEW LISTING

TOO NEW FOR A PHOTO

14081 LENMOORE, VAN BUREN TWP

COUNTRY LIVING ON ALMOST TWO ACRES. 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, Fireplace, New Roof (2018), 1,844 Sq Ft, Entertainment Room with Bar. 18x36 Covered Patio. \$300,000

NEW LISTING



9000 OAKVILLE WALTZ, AUGUSTA TWP

LOTS TO SEE! Large 1,854 SqFt Ranch with New Carpet & Floor Coverings, Open Kitchen, Fireplace, Sun Room, 2 1/2 Car Attached Garage, Pole Barn, Paved Street and More. \$269,900

6 ACRES & 5 BEDROOMS



10479 BEMIS, YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP

LARGE HOME with Premium Lafada Kitchen, Hardwood Floors, Granite, Ceramic and Quarry Tile Baths. 5 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths, New Roof-2020 and 90+ Furnace. 2 1/2 car Garage. \$450,000

1,527 SQ FT FENCED YARD



10955 BUCHANAN, VAN BUREN

LARGE 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Ranch in Van Buren Estates. 1,527 Square Feet, Newer Central Air. Huge 2 1/2 Car + Garage. Big Fenced Yard, Great Neighborhood and Priced to Sell at \$210,000

CLEAN AND NEAT



590 KENNEDY, YPSILANTI

LIVE THE LIFE at One Right Price! Just Move in this 3 Bedroom 1 Updated Bath, Open Kitchen. Large Fenced Yard with 1 1/2 Car Detached Garage. It's Curb Appeal Plus. \$169,900.

MOST AFFORDABLE



1705 LONDON, LINCOLN PARK

A Most Affordable Lincoln Park Home.. 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths and Partially Finished Basement. 12x18 Three Seasons Room, Large 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage Double Lot \$119,500

COUNTRY LIVING 1.78 ACRES



43004 JUDD SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

IT'S COUNTRY LIVING at an Affordable Price. 2 Bedroom (possible 3) and 1 Bath, Updated Kitchen, Updated Bath and New Metal Roof. 1.78 Acres on Paved Street, 2 1/2 Car Garage \$179,900

BELLEVILLE RESIDENTIAL LOTS 3 LOTS

ONE PRICE, TOTALING .41 ACRES WITH CITY WATER AND SEWER AT STREET. SIDE WALKS IN AND SOME VIEWS OF BELLEVILLE LAKE \$60,000

00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000

COMMERCIAL CORNER OF ECORSE & WAYNE ROMULUS 4.27 ACRES \$650,000

VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000

WAYNE RD COM ZONE 1.48 AC \$149,000

TORREY 2.48 AC PERC + SURVEY \$39,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000

ONE 12+ ACRE PARCEL AT \$120,000 NEAR CORNER WEAR AND HAGGERTY

VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000

VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000

41530 SAVAGE 30AC VAN BUREN \$349,999

10 AC BUNTON YPSILANTI TWP \$155,000

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